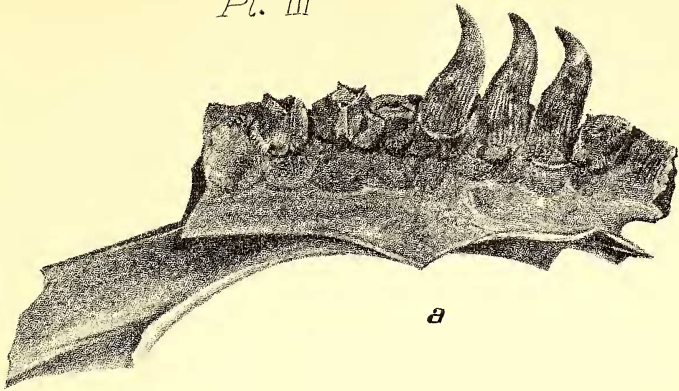


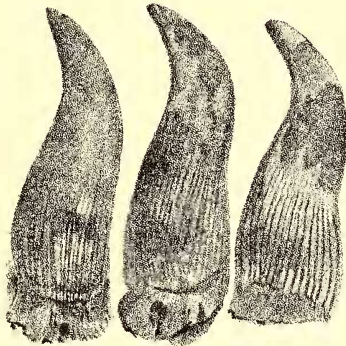
## A FURTHER TRACE OF AN EXTINCT LIZARD.

Of the formidable lizard to which on the evidence of a single fossil tooth the name *Varanus dirus* was assigned (Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland, Vol. 6, p. 98), no additional knowledge has been gathered from exploration until lately, owing to a long continued deprivation of the means of prosecuting field work of that or any other kind, which has been the lot of this Museum. In the early part of last year, however, it became possible to allow a collector, Mr. Broadbent, to make a brief excursion to his favourite fossil-hunting ground at Chinchilla, where, among the few objects of interest which time permitted him to exhume, he obtained the bone which is the subject of the present note. As will appear from the drawing on Plate III., it comprises almost the whole of a right maxillary, containing three entire teeth and the stumps of five others. In the conformation of the jaw and proportionate size of the teeth *V. dirus* appears to be more closely represented in life by the Papuan species, *P. salvadorii* than by any of the Australian monitors. The three teeth preserved are the third, fourth, and fifth; all the teeth, except, perhaps, the one foremost in the series, seem to have been equal in size, or nearly so, similar in shape, and set in close array with their bases in contact. In length and breadth this maxillary is about twice greater than that of an example of *V. salvadorii*, which measures, in the skeleton, 7 feet in length. With proportionate means of offence, a trunk equal in bulk to that of a crocodile, and the voracity of latter-day "gohanners," *V. dirus* would, to an unarmed man, be a formidable antagonist, and must have been, amongst others, an efficient agent in moderating the superabundant life of its times.

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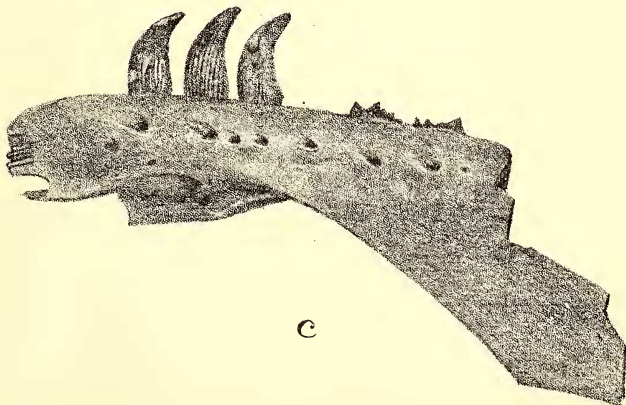


a



b

x2



c